

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~, especially ~~one made~~ of styrene and/or polyolefins, for the packaging and long-term storage of food products ~~and the like, such as salads, fruit extracts, beverages in disposable portion packs for beverage vending machines, toothpaste, etc., wherein, the container comprising,~~ to reduce the amount of oxygen penetrating the plastic container ~~(10-20) closed plastic container (10, 20), in a closed portion thereof, the plastic container is provided with~~ a coating that hinders the diffusion of oxygen, wherein the exterior and/or interior ~~surface (15, 25) surfaces~~ of the container ~~is~~ are coated with a coating ~~(30)~~ with oxygen barrier properties, and material of the coating (30) is being largely adapted to ~~the container material and possibly to the contents of the container contents~~ with respect to its properties, ~~for example, its selected from~~ mechanical strength, thermal expansion, and chemical resistance, ~~to the contents of the container, such that wherein~~ the coating materials used for the coating are based on modern epoxy resins or amine adducts, and wherein the coating has a thickness of 0.003 to 0.03mm.

2. (Currently Amended) Plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~ in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the coating ~~(30)~~ is applied by spray coating and/or dip coating only the outer surface or the entire freely accessible surface of the plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~ in one operation.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) Plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~ in accordance with Claim 3, wherein ~~one of the individual layers~~ the coating is a layer produced by metallization.
5. (Currently Amended) Plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~ in accordance with Claim 1, wherein, after it has been applied to the container surface ~~(15, 25)~~, the coating ~~(30)~~ is subjected to an aftertreatment that consists, for example, of heating or UV irradiation, ~~e.g.~~, for the purpose of drying it or curing it.
6. (Currently Amended) Plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~ in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the finished coating ~~(30) varies from~~ is about 0.003 mm to 0.03 mm, and preferably from 0.003 mm to 0.03  $\mu$ m.

7. (Currently Amended) Plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~ in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the container surface ~~(15, 25)~~ to be coated is pretreated, ~~e.g.,~~ by flame treating, before it is coated and is then, for example, fat-free and/or dust-free and/or roughened.